

National Congress Bulletin

FEBRUARY 1956 PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS • CHICAGO 11 • VOL. 23, NO. 6

Memo to Local Presidents:

FEBRUARY 17 is the birthday of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers. And so this month local associations set aside a day on which to honor Alice McLellan Birney and Phoebe Apperson Hearst who founded the National Congress in Washington, D. C., in 1897. This is also a day when our associations honor their local pioneer parent-teacher leaders and officers and express grateful appreciation for their contribution to the progress and success of our work.

- As a prologue to your Founders Day program, why not take this opportunity to point up our many outstanding accomplishments in the fields of child welfare and community relationships?

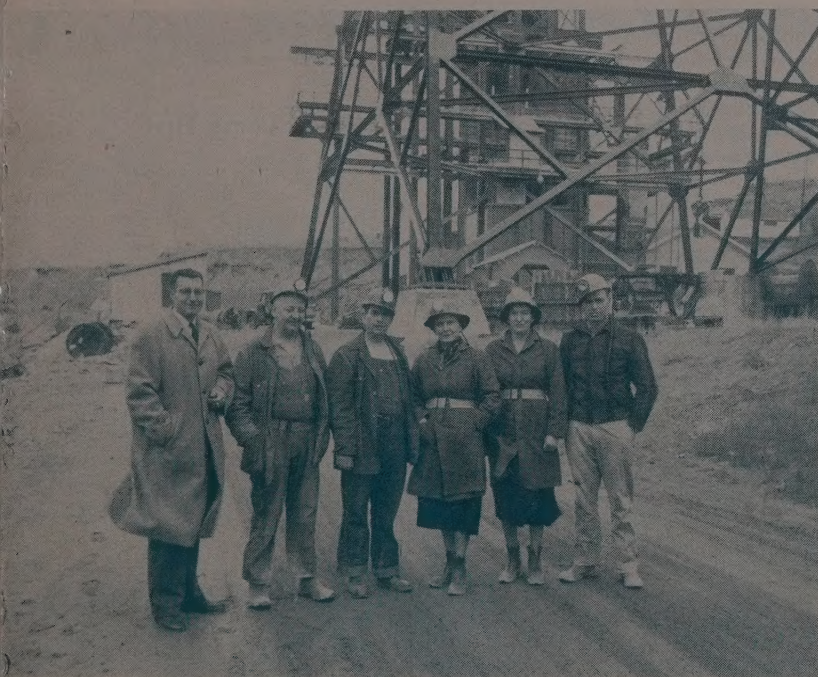
- You will not have time to review the entire record of achievements but you can call attention to a number of things that all of us working together have done and done well. For example:

- We have fostered family-home-com-

munity cooperation to create the kind of environment in which children can grow to sound, healthy, happy maturity.

- We have been instrumental in raising standards of home life by encouraging the formation of thousands of parent and family life study-discussion groups.
- We have been influential in promoting legislation for the care, protection, and education of children and youth.
- We have sponsored programs of safety in the home, at school, on the playground, in the community, and on street and highway.
- We have thrown the full weight of our concern and interest to the support of governmental and other agencies that deal with the welfare and education of children and youth.
- We have worked with school personnel for the kind of school program that will give the nation's children training in fundamental knowledge and skills, an appreciation of our democratic heritage, and a sense of moral and spiritual values.
- We have worked hand in hand with classroom teachers, principals, superintendents, and other school personnel to find ways of drawing the attention of all citizens to the needs of the schools.
- We have stressed the need of voluntary cooperation between the lay citizen and the professional educator in order that each might gain a better understanding of the other's aspirations and problems.

- From your own experience you can mention specific local projects illustrative of our total state and national effort, or activities that have added and are adding to the record already established. Indeed, I am sure that parent-



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- After attending the Montana Congress of Parents and Teachers convention, Mrs. Rollin Brown, national president, visited the Kelley copper mine in Butte where the block caving system is used. Mrs. Brown is third from the right. Pictured with her are (from left to right) C. J. Hicks, mining geologist of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company; John Killoy, superintendent of the Kelley mine; Newton Dunstan, visitors' guide; Mrs. John Milanovich, president, Central Council; and Martin Hanifin, assistant superintendent of the Anaconda Copper Mining Company.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

teacher programs abound in projects devoted to:

Teacher recruitment
Accident prevention
Scholarships
Teen-age codes
Bond issues
American Education Week
Combating juvenile delinquency
White House Conference on Education
Elimination of objectionable comics
The fight against polio
CARE Children's Book Fund

And many more! Tell about them on Founders Day and you will find that members and nonmembers alike will be eager to contribute to the Founders Day gift of an organization that is doing so much for children. When you give your audience a graphic story of our accomplishments, locally and nationally, and also your own unit's plans for the future, you cannot fail to interest responsible, civic-minded citizens in parent-teacher membership.

Register and Vote

● And speaking of the civic-minded citizen—whenever there is need for a declaration of the people's will, every citizen should go to the polls and vote. Otherwise he is living in a condition of voluntary servitude just as pitiable as the slavery associated with physical bondage. Not having expressed his will, he has to abide by decisions of those who *have* exercised their franchise.

● Furthermore, the citizen who fails to cast his ballot when called upon to do so is a threat to the very foundations of our liberty. He may be helping an active minority to win control because he has been too lazy and spineless to go to the polls. Is there a "Register and Vote" campaign in your community? If not, why not initiate one in cooperation with other organizations? Around the calendar year communities are voting on issues important to the welfare of families and children.

Two Important Meetings

● During January, two interesting and important meetings took place at the national headquarters. Dr. Henry Helmholtz, national chairman of the Committee on Health, invited a distinguished group of persons in that field to come

together to discuss periodic health examinations for children. This was an all-day meeting, where ideas and experiences were pooled and the shared thinking of the group brought to bear on a vital part of the health program of our organization. Future plans of the Committee on Health will reflect the results of the deliberations and discussions. (The personnel of the conference group is listed elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.)

● The second meeting brought together members of the Executive Committee of the National Congress and representatives of the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers for what is now an annual discussion of our work for children.

● The Colored Congress was organized thirty years ago in Atlanta, Georgia, and harmonious and cooperative relationships have always existed between our two organizations. Many questions were discussed at the recent meeting, and one of the most encouraging statements on which we are in agreement is this:

Anything we can do together to demonstrate that different races and cultures can live together with respect for each other's contributions, with each accepting responsibility for the common good and with fair treatment for all, will be a significant contribution to the national wel-



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● San Francisco, 1956 National Congress convention city, is famed for its quaint cable cars. At the rear of the car is Grant Street, heart of San Francisco's Chinatown.

fare and to the future good of all children. This is an ideal toward which we must work in practical ways.

Children Come First

● Being family-minded and community-minded means that we are concerned with all community influences upon children and families, schools, churches, institutions and their services, and recreational and social services. Therefore, on Founders Day let us dedicate ourselves anew to our Objects and to our function of being an organization in which children will forever come first. Let us remind our members and friends that generous Founders Day gifts will enable us to strengthen our services and extend them to more families, more schools, and more communities.

MRS. ROLLIN BROWN, President
 National Congress of Parents and Teachers

1956 CONVENTION

● The 1956 convention of the National Congress will be held in San Francisco, California, on May 20, 21, 22, 23.



THROUGH OUR

Fieldglass

Field Staff: Ellen Dell Bieler • Dema Kennedy

Through Our Fieldglass is prepared from material gathered by members of the field staff "on location."

Deserved Recognition

Formally thanking Governor Goodwin J. Knight for his enduring interest in youth and child welfare, the Third District of the California Congress of Parents and Teachers presents him with an honorary state life membership. Representing the district in the photograph are Mrs. W. J. Hallam, president (left), and Mrs. W. R. Walter, honorary life membership chairman.



© McCurry

Governor Knight has been a P.T.A. member since the day his first child started to school. His genuine concern for California's educational problems is well known and was ably expressed at a recent state-wide California conference on education when he said: "A good education, supervised by qualified teachers, and enjoyed in safe and healthy surroundings, is the birthright of all California boys and girls—regardless of race, color, religion, or the social or financial status of their parents." Further evidence of his interest was last December's Governor's Conference on Youth and Narcotics, held in Sacramento, and his declaration of an October P.T.A. Membership Campaign Week.

"Hideaway" For Parents

A "parents' hideaway" is the Port Kenyon P.T.A. (northern California) solution to a problem typical of many large rural school areas. A little used room in the school has been converted into a special haven where parents may wait for children who are attending school affairs. The comfortable room, complete with chairs, tables, and even tele-

vision, offers parents refuge from blustery weather and opportunities to get better acquainted with each other and their children's teachers.

The "Egg" and the P.T.A.

The China Egg is a newsletter published ("hatched" according to its editor) by the China P.T.A., a small rural unit in Maine. Its volunteer staff includes an ex-commercial teacher, who plans the layout and sets up the mimeograph stencils, and the commercial department of the Erskine Academy, whose members get the newsletter ready for distribution.

Now in its second year, the paper is chock-full of P.T.A. and community information. A quick glance at one issue showed:

- A welcome to a new school board member, and a review of qualifications of a good school board member.
- Announcement of the Spring Child Health Clinic.
- State and local library news.
- An article on the school cafeteria.

- An article on tax needs and the value of new schools.
- The legend of maple syrup.
- Reminders about items in the *National Congress Bulletin* and an article in the state bulletin by the legislation chairman.

The Young Men in the Family

"Educating Boys and Men for Family Life," the theme of the 1955 California family life education workshops, was designed to explore a relatively neglected field of education. The sessions were opened to both men and women, and attendance in pairs or in community "teams" has been encouraged.

To be presented by a series of keynote speakers were such issues as:

- How well prepared are young men for responsibilities as husbands and fathers?
- Where do they learn what is expected of them?
- What forces in our culture help or hinder them in adult roles?
- What special problems do boys and young men face—socially, physically, economically, and psychologically?
- What effect does military service have on family life?

101 Questions Answered

Preparing graduate students for M.A. degrees, Dr. Hervon Snider, an education professor at the University of Idaho, uses *101 Questions About Public Education*. Dr. Snider, also a first vice-president of the Idaho Congress, reports the material invaluable in such situations because it provides an accurate survey of many of the problems on which students are questioned in comprehensive exams.

NATIONAL CONGRESS BULLETIN

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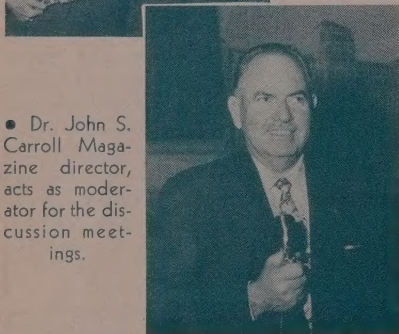
TWO-DAY MAGAZINE PR



• Presidents, past and present — Mrs. Newton P. Leonard (left) and Mrs. Rollin Brown.



• Mrs. Joel Burkitt, national chairman of the Magazine, chats with Dr. Ralph H. Ojemann, Magazine director and associate editor.



• Dr. John S. Carroll Magazine director, acts as moderator for the discussion meetings.

With Mrs. Joel Burkitt, national chairman of the Committee on *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine* presiding, 44 state magazine chairmen and 5 alternates (who were state presidents); 12 state presidents; and 21 *National Parent-Teacher* directors, advisory committee chairmen, and national officers met at the Knickerbocker Hotel in Chicago, December 2-3, 1955. There they worked together, planning for wider circulation of the magazine and outlining ways to accomplish it. All conferees were participants in one way or another and, in an atmosphere of fellowship and informality, they pooled ideas and focused attention on mutual questions and problems.

Although the "official business" of the conference was accomplished mainly through panel discussions and buzz sessions, enthusiasms and conversations were carried over into coffee breaks, luncheon and dinner get-togethers, and throughout the tours of the new home of the National Congress. The Friday night dinner session offered practical but delightful entertainment in the form of promotion devices, including jiffyskits, role-playing, a slogan contest, and a magazine promotion game. A display of exhibits, arranged in the hotel foyer by magazine chairmen and National Office staff, was another method employed for exchanging inspirations and ideas.

In general, conferees in buzz sessions defined the lead-off questions and problems to be discussed later by panel teams. However, throughout the meetings everyone had opportunity to air his own ideas and draw attention to fur-

ther discussion points. Findings of the conference interchanges have been multi-lithed and sent to all state magazine chairmen, National Board members, and state congress offices, and the next issue of *Promotion News* will carry some of the information in capsuled form. Look for such points as:

- *Summary of the areas of cooperation and communication.*
- *How to observe Magazine Day, Week, and/or Month in the local unit and at council, district, and state levels.*
- *Training sessions, workshops, schools of instruction.*
- *Promotion material for local unit chairmen.*
- *Developing a sales program.*
- *Awards and incentives.*
- *Attention-getters and sellers.*

Another point that ranked high in conference interest was the inspirational fact that our official magazine soon will be able to observe its Golden Jubilee Year, beginning November 1956. This, too, was discussed enthusiastically and will be one of the *Promotion News* features.

As Mrs. Newton P. Leonard, immediate past president of the Congress and now president of the magazine, said at the conference, "We expect, and you expect, that from this conference our magazine is going to be better known and better used by many more people than ever before. We are going to find ways to open up those channels that have been closed up to this time."



• Officers of the National Congress and the Magazine attend the dinner at the Knickerbocker Hotel. From left to right, they are: Mrs. H. G. Stinnett, Jr., vice-president; Mrs. L. W. Alston, secretary; Joseph Hunter, vice president; Mrs. Joel Burkitt, chairman, Committee on the *National Parent-Teacher*; Mrs. Newton P. Leonard, president of the Magazine and immediate past president of the Congress; and vice-presidents Mrs. T. J. Mims, Mrs. O. S. Fatland, and Mrs. T. H. Ludlow.

EDITION WORKSHOP

Photos by Jon's Studio



• National Parent-Teacher magazine chairmen gather at the Knickerbocker Hotel in Chicago.

First row—left to right: Mrs. George Becknell, Ind.; Mrs. Horace Collier, Ariz.; Mrs. Abe Krovitz, Minn.; Mrs. Robert N. Johnson, Maine; Mrs. C. E. Rogers, Tenn.; Mrs. Guy L. Ray, Ala.; Mrs. Floyd Barrett, Ore.; Mrs. Ronald Moore, Kans.; Mrs. Forest L. Miller, D. C.; Mrs. Sue-Mar S. Dawson, Hawaii (alternate); and Mrs. George Stocker, Idaho.

Second row—left to right: Mrs. Arthur Riggs, W. Va.; Mrs. John P. Zaiken, Mass.; Mrs. F. M. Wolff, Miss.; Mrs. Lawrence B. Martin, Calif.; Mrs. John L. Barber, N. Y.; Mrs. W. C. Spitzer, Fla.; Mrs. H. Cecil Baker, Utah (state president); Mrs. Arthur R. Grimes, Conn.; Mrs. Stanley V. Michota, Ohio; Mrs. Robert Friess, Wis.; Mrs. A. H. Calef, N. H.; and Mrs. Harry Goldberg, R. I.

Third row—left to right: Mrs. J. S. Goff, La. (state president); Mrs. Marshall Richards, Mont.; Mrs. L. L. Lynas, Colo.; Mrs. W. O. Percy, Ark.; Mrs. J. C. Dowling, Jr., S. C.; Mrs. Joe Hanchrow, N. C.; Mrs. William Potts, Wyo.; Mrs. Serge Foeller, Mich.; Mrs. Joseph A. Hunter, Md.; Mrs. M. A. Riemann, S. D.; Mrs. R. H. La Follette, N. M.; Mrs. John R. Carmody, Nev.; and Mrs. Mina P. Brown, Del.

Fourth row—left to right: Mrs. Edwin Jones, Wash.; Mrs. John Matthews, Iowa; Mrs. Herman Siefkes, Nebr.; Mrs. C. K. English, Pa.; Mrs. Roland M. Howard, Va.; Mrs. L. E. Snell, Vt.; Mrs. Ralph Hobbs, Ga.; Mrs. Everett Sprowles, N. J.; Mrs. Evan Davis, Okla.; and Mrs. Austin S. Stearns, Mo.



N.C.C.P.T.-N.C.P.T. JOINT CONFERENCE

• Members of the Executive Committee of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and representatives of the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers met in Chicago in January to discuss matters of common concern. Several staff members of the N.C.P.T. also attended the meeting.

Seated at the National Congress conference table are (left to right): Mary A. Ferre, managing editor, N.C.P.T.; Mrs. D. M. Jarnagin, chairman, intergroup relations, N.C.C.P.T.; Mrs. L. W. Alston, secretary, N.C.P.T.; Mrs. Charles L. Williams, president, N.C.C.P.T.; Mrs. Rollin Brown, president, N.C.P.T.; Ruth A. Bottomly, office director and administrative assistant, N.C.P.T.; Mrs. James C. Parker, first vice-president, N.C.P.T.; Jeannetta Chase, secretary, N.C.C.P.T.; Mrs. Ramon Lawrence, vice-president, N.C.P.T. Roe Wright, business manager, N.C.P.T., was present but is not in the picture. He took it.

P.

T.

A.

BULLETIN BOARD

Brief Items of Current Interest

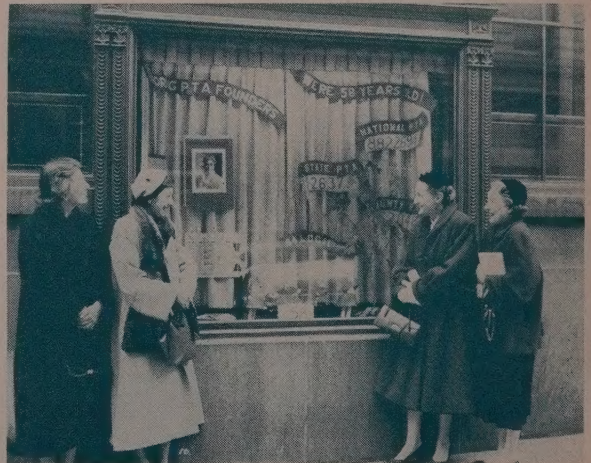


• Chemistry students at Caldwell, Idaho, perform experiments for visiting parents.

- **A P.T.S.A. WAS ORGANIZED** at the request of senior high school students in Caldwell, Idaho. The high school paper, which devotes regular space to the unit's affairs, describes an open-house meeting. After its adjournment parents garnered inside information on their offsprings' school day by attending scheduled ten-minute classes.
- **NEIGHBORHOOD PARENTS** in rural West Virginia are those P.T.A. county council members who work with the juvenile judge to help solve youth problems. Having received preparatory training, the "neighborhood parents" are given custody of any neighborhood youth who is brought before the judge. The plan still is in a trial stage although it has proved quite satisfactory during its months in force.
- **WAYS-AND-MEANS WHEREWITHAL** of the Hayes P.T.A. in Lakewood, Ohio, is picked up in traveling baskets. Each room representative receives a basket equipped with a piggy-bank type of money box and a list of classroom parents. Into the basket she puts an article of her own choice—pie, cake, apron, et cetera—and sends it along to the first person on the list. That person judges the worth of the article, pays accordingly, and relays the basket and her own sales item to the next listed P.T.A. member.
- **RECOGNIZING FIELD TRIPS** as an important part of the school curriculum, a committee of Henry Clay School

P.T.A. parents (Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin) put information they gathered into a trip file for teachers' use. The file is to be cross-referenced according to suitability of trips for youngsters of various grade levels.

- **A MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN** that will increase the membership figure to 100 per cent is the aim of the Alamo School P.T.A. of Wichita Falls, Texas. There are 558 children in the school from 360 homes and, at the close of the last campaign, there were 511 P.T.A. members from 325 homes—a 91.6 per cent representation.
- **SCHOLARSHIP PINS** are awarded every year by the Bryan Station P.T.A. (Kentucky) to students who attain certain scholarship standards. Likewise, medals are granted to the boy and girl who demonstrate exceptional qualities of citizenship.
- **A GOOD TURN** to parents is also a strong public relations bid by the Jordan P.T.A. of Utah. Cooperating in an unusual project, the P.T.A. and the Jordan School District welcome each of the district's new babies with a warm message of congratulations to its parents and send along a copy of *The Pocket Book of Baby and Child Care*, by Benjamin Spock, M.D.



- **IN A FOUNDERS DAY WINDOW DISPLAY**, the Denver County Council of P.T.A.'s unfolded an "Acorn to Oak Tree" theme by tracing membership growth of local, county, state, and national levels. The "why" of the growth was explained with illustrations of the parent-teacher program in action. Gazing at their handiwork are (left to right) Mrs. Kenneth Scott, art chairman; Mrs. Frederick Bonar, publicity chairman; Mrs. J. L. Edgar, president; and Mrs. Doryce Phillips, historian.



• Wallace Winn and Marie Reddy (right), recipients of honorary life memberships, and Mrs. L. Axley, principal of the Oglethorpe School, in Savannah, Georgia.

- **A FOUNDERS DAY PROGRAM** feature of the Oglethorpe Avenue P.T.A. (Savannah, Georgia) was the presentation of a state life membership to Marie Reddy, local teacher for 45 years, and to Wallace Winn, principal of the school. The two also were accorded floral honors in the form of a corsage and a boutonniere.
- **"WE HAVE A GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD** and much of the credit goes to the council," said the president of the Glenville Area Community Council (Cleveland, Ohio). Parental action launched the council when residents foresaw growing needs for recreation, better social services, increased police protection. Persistence has resulted in new community centers and playgrounds, special projects, and a roster of volunteers who are always ready for assignment. Eleven of the 112 cooperating organizations are P.T.A.'s.
- **HEALTHIER CHILDREN** in the Ninilchik (Alaska) school may be attributed to continuous efforts of the school's P.T.A. Although there are but twenty-five members in the P.T.A., its notable accomplishments include provision for daily quotas of orange juice and vitamins and medical, dental, and optical services.
- **CLASSES IN "HE-MANNERS"** for boys and "Charm for the Charming" for girls were presented by the Fremont, Nebraska, P.T.A. The classes were an outgrowth of a survey, which revealed that junior high boys and girls wanted to know more about what to do, what to wear, and what to say.
- **EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION** has received another boost with Chicago's new station, WTTW. Its program manager, James Robertson, speaker at a meeting of the Boone P.T.A. in Chicago, analyzed such topics as reactions of parents to TV, effects on children and youth, and ways to make improvements.

LIFE MEMBER



This is to certify that

**IS A LIFE MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL
CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS.**

President

A Facsimile of the Life Membership Card

• It was encouraging to receive several inquiries about National Life Memberships following the statement in the January issue of the *National Congress Bulletin*. I'd like to share the questions and answers with you.

Q. Must the recipient of a National Life Membership be a member of a local unit?

No, membership in a local unit is not necessary. National Life Membership is a tribute for any outstanding service to children.

Q. Are only nationally known persons eligible?

No, many National Life Memberships have been conferred on persons who have served within their own community. Their friends and co-workers have recognized the value of their contribution and have honored them in this way.

Q. Tell us about the present number of persons who hold memberships.

They number 838 and every state is represented. At the present time Ohio leads in the number of life members. Among the 838 are officers or former officers of local units, councils, districts, state or national congresses. Many are teachers, principals, superintendents, congressmen, doctors, librarians, clergymen, and businessmen.

Q. How can a National Life Membership be obtained? When?

By sending a check for \$50 to the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and stating the name and address of the recipient. A National Life Membership certificate and membership card, signed by the national president, will be issued and sent as directed. Memberships can be procured at any time; we find, however, that we receive more requests before meetings and conventions. On such occasions the life membership certificate is presented with appropriate ceremony.

Q. Is there a National Life Membership pin?

Yes, an attractive rolled gold pin, to be proudly worn by its owner, may be obtained from the National Office for \$4.50. The price of the pin is not included in the fee for National Life Membership.

Any more questions? An answer to one that may occur to you is that National Life Membership is honorary and does not carry the right to vote.

Mrs. Newton P. Leonard
Past National President



Conference Participants

American Academy of General Practice.....	Dr. J. R. Fowler
American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology.....	Dr. Frank D. Costenbader
American Academy of Pediatrics.....	Dr. John L. Reichert
American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation.....	Elizabeth S. Avery
American Dental Association.....	Dr. Lon W. Morrey
American Hearing Society.....	Mary L. Thompson
American Home Economics Association.....	Helen C. Dawe
American Medical Association, Bureau of Health Education.....	Dr. Donald A. Dukelow
American Medical Association, Council on Medical Service and Committee on Maternal and Child Care.....	Dr. W. L. Crawford
American Nurses' Association.....	Mrs. Madeline Roessler
American Psychiatric Association.....	Dr. Rudolph G. Novick
American Public Health Association.....	Dr. Thomas E. Shaffer
American School Health Association.....	Dr. A. O. DeWeese
Association of State and Territorial Health Officers.....	Dr. Franklin D. Yoder
National Association for Mental Health.....	Dr. George S. Stevenson
National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.....	Mrs. Ben H. Gray
National Tuberculosis Association.....	Charlotte Leach
U.S. Children's Bureau.....	Dr. Katherine Bain
U.S. Office of Education.....	Simon A. McNeely
U.S. Public Health Service.....	Dr. Donald Harting

The National Congress of Parents and Teachers was represented by:

Mrs. Rollin Brown, *President*
 Mrs. James C. Parker, *First Vice-president*
 Dr. Henry F. Helmholz, *Chairman, Committee on Health*
 Dr. W. Carson Ryan, *Chairman, Committee on Mental Health*

CONFERENCE ON PERIODIC HEALTH EXAMINATIONS

• A section of the conference group discussing the periodic health appraisal for children. Dr. Helmholz, national chairman, Committee on Health, is seated at the table, second from the right. Mrs. Rollin Brown, national president, sits slightly to the right at the end of the table.

Toward Protecting Children

The Salk vaccine strikingly reduced paralytic polio among those who received it in 1955 and it will protect many thousands in 1956—that is, if it's used widely and in time. That boys and girls have best chances for protection if vaccine is given now is the theme of a pamphlet, *Polio Vaccination Now*, available in quantities from county chapters of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

The pamphlet answers many prevalent questions, among them: *How effective is the Salk vaccine? If a child's second shot has been delayed, will it be effective now? How long does protection last? Can the vaccine cause someone to become a polio carrier?*

**Our Goal: 10,000,000
Members by April 15,
1956**

Brotherhood Week, February 19-26

Brotherhood, simply stated, is giving to others the rights and respect we want for ourselves. Although this thought is not new, it is one we need constantly to evoke if we are to gain real justice and understanding for all.

"Brotherhood for Peace and Freedom. Believe it. Live it. Support it." is the theme of the 1956 Brotherhood Week. As groundwork for your observation, see "An Ancient Truth—A Modern Need" in the February 1956 issue of *National Parent-Teacher: The P.T.A. Magazine*.